

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The Examiner rejected claims 3, 5, 6, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant notes that claim 3 has been amended to overcome the Examiner's rejection.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 7-8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asahi et al. EP 1022903 A2.

Asahi does not teach all the limitations of claim 1. More specifically Asahi does not teach, explicitly or implicitly, "a safety area predicting unit which predicts a safety area of the peripheral portion of the own vehicle." Asahi discloses a camera that projects an image on a monitor, paragraph [0015], and a guide frame superimposed on the image, paragraph [0031]. Asahi further discloses obstacle sensors that alert the driver when the vehicle is too close to an obstacle displayed in the image. Based on this the Examiner states that it would have been obvious to conclude that a "safety area" is implicitly taught. However, Applicant contends that Asahi does not implicitly teach a "predicted safety area." Asahi simply displays an image that may or may not contain an obstacle on a monitor. Asahi does not provide the driver any information as to the distance from the obstacle. Thus, Asahi does not implicitly teach "a safety area predicting unit which predicts a safety area of the peripheral portion of the own vehicle." Therefore, Asahi does not teach all the limitations of claim 1.

Applicant notes that claim 2 depends from claim 1 thus all arguments pertaining to claim 1 are equally applicable to claim 2 and are herein incorporated by reference.

Asahi does not teach all the limitations of amended claim 3. More specifically Asahi does not teach "an obstacle area predicting unit for predicting an obstacle area." Asahi discloses a camera that

projects an image on a monitor, paragraph [0015], and a guide frame superimposed on the image, paragraph [0031]. Asahi further discloses obstacle sensors that alert the driver when the vehicle is to close to an obstacle displayed in the image. Thus, Asahi simply displays an image that may or may not contain an obstacle on a monitor. Asahi does not provide the driver any information as to an obstacle area. Asahi does not teach “an obstacle area predicting unit for predicting an obstacle area.” Therefore, Asahi does not teach all the limitations of amended claim 3.

Asahi does not teach all the limitations of claims 7 and 8. More specifically, Asahi does not teach where the “safety area,” claim 7, or the “obstacle area,” claim 8, “In at least one of a flickering display manner, a half-tone dot meshing display manner, and a transparent color display manner.” Paragraph [0032] of Asahi discloses that the various images such as the guide frame, the fixed frame, the marker, etc. are different colors. However, none of these images are either flickering, dotted, or transparent to further offset the image in question to the driver. Thus, Asahi does not teach where the “safety area,” claim 7, or the “obstacle area,” claim 8, is superposed “in at least one of a flickering display manner, a half-tone dot meshing display manner, and a transparent color display manner.” Therefore, Asahi does not teach all the limitations of claims 7 and 8.

Further, claim 7 depends from claim 1 and claim 8 depends from claim 3 thus all arguments above pertaining to claims 1 and 3 are equally applicable to claims 7 and 8 respectively and are herein incorporated by reference.

The Examiner objected to claim 4 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant notes that claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base and any intervening claims and thus is in condition for allowance.

The Examiner stated that claims 5 and 6 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant notes that claims 5 and 6 have been amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and have been rewritten in independent form to

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include the limitations of the base and any intervening claims and thus are in condition for allowance.

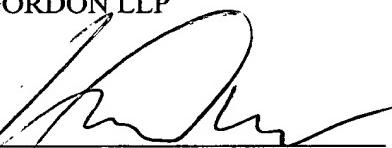
In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 33984.

Respectfully submitted,

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